

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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-----055133 311545Z /14

R 310515Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7793
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USIA WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 4123

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID, SOPN

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON ISLAMIC YOUTH GROUPS CHARGED WITH SUBVERSION

REF: (A) JAKARTA 4090 (DTG 300926Z MAR 78)

(B) JAKARTA 3683 (DTG 210940Z MAR 78)

1. A PROMINENT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM THE MUSLIM-BASED UNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTY (PPP) GAVE US THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND ON THE TWO ISLAMIC YOUTH GROUPS CHARGED BY THE GOVERNMENT WITH PLANNING FOR ILLEGAL AND SUBVERSIVE ACTS-- THE ISLAMIC YOUTH MOVEMENT (GERAKAN PEMUDA ISLAM, GPI) AND THE INDONESIAN ISLAMIC YOUTH GENERATION (GENERASI MUDA ISLAM INDONESIA, GMII).

2. OF THE TWO, THE GPI IS MUCH LARGER AND BETTER ESTABLISHED. WHILE NOT A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF THE OLD
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MASJUMI-AFFILIATED YOUTH GROUP GERAKAN PEMUDA ISLAM INDONESIA (GPII), GPI CLAIMS TO ESPOUSE THE SAME MODERNIST ISLAMIC LINE AND TRIES TO CAPITALIZE ON THE SIMILARITY IN NAMES. GPI HAS SOMETHING ON THE ORDER OF 3-5,000 ACTIVE ADHERENTS, ALMOST ALL OF THEM ON JAVA AND MOST IN WEST JAVA. IT ALSO HAS STRONG BRANCHES IN SURABAYA AND JOGJAKARTA. (THE SURABAYA BRANCH HAS PUBLICLY

DISAVOWED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF OR INVOLVEMENT IN THE MARCH 20 FIREBOMBINGS IN JAKARTA, BLAMED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE GPI.)

3. WHILE NOT OFFICIALLY TIED TO THE MUHAMMADIYAH ORGANIZATION, THE GPI DRAWS MOST OF ITS MEMBERSHIP FROM THAT GROUP. OUR SOURCE OPINED THAT IF THE MUHAMMADIYAH LEADERSHIP WAS MORE DYNAMIC AND EFFECTIVE, THE GPI WOULD DISAPPEAR. HE ALSO SAID THAT, FROM WHAT HE KNEW OF THE GPI MEMBERSHIP, IT IS NOT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SOME OF ITS MEMBERS MIGHT RESORT TO VIOLENCE--"SOME OF THEM ARE CRAZY." THERE ARE NO REALLY PROMINENT ISLAMIC LEADERS AFFILIATED WITH GPI, ALTHOUGH THE GENERAL CHAIRMAN IS CURRENTLY SOUGHT BY SECURITY FORCES--IS A LOCALLY WELL-KNOWN FORMER LEADER OF THE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ORGANIZATION (HMI) AT UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA (UI).THE GPI WAS FOUNDED "THREE OR FOUR YEARS AGO" (THE GOVERNMENT SAYS 1973) BUT DID NOT BECOME ACTIVE UNTIL 1976. IT TOOK LITTLE PART IN THE 1977 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION CAMPAIGN, BEING GENERALLY REGARDED AS AN ALBATROSS BY THE CONSERVATIVE MUSLIMS WHO DOMINATE THE PPP.

4. THE GMII IS A MUCH TINIER ORGANIZATION, FOUNDED IN 1977 SPECIFICALLY TO AGITATE FOR THE ELECTION OF MUSLIMS IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. IT HAS NO PROMINENT LEADERS AND NO SIGNIFICANT MEMBERSHIP OUTSIDE OF JAKARTA.
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ITS TOTAL MEMBERSHIP IS, AT MOST, A FEW HUNDRED, ITS "ACTIVE" MEMBERSHIP PERHAPS A FEW DOZEN.
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NNN

Message Attributes

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